

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A keyboard for use with a medical software application program,
2 comprising:
3 a first plurality of keys having a first visually distinguishing characteristic,
4 wherein keys in the first plurality of keys include an icon representative of an
5 image display function such that when a key from the first plurality of keys is
6 activated, the image display function represented by the icon associated with the
7 activated key is performed by the medical software application program; and
8 a second plurality of keys having a second visually distinguishing
9 characteristic, wherein the second plurality of keys include an indication
10 representing an image navigation function such that when a key from the second
11 plurality of keys is activated, the image navigation function associated with the
12 activated key is performed by the medical software application program.
- 1 2. The keyboard of claim 1, further comprising a third plurality of keys
2 having a third visually distinguishing characteristic, wherein the third plurality of
3 keys includes an indication representative of an image manipulation function
4 such that when a key from the third plurality of keys is activated, the image
5 manipulation function represented by the indication associated with the activated
6 key is performed by the medical software application program.

1 3. The keyboard of claim 2, further comprising a fourth plurality of keys
2 having a fourth visually distinguishing characteristic, wherein the fourth plurality
3 of keys includes an indication representative of a patient information function
4 such that when a key from the fourth plurality of keys is activated, the patient
5 information function represented by the indication associated with the activated
6 key is performed by the medical software application program

7
8 4. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the first visually distinguishing
9 characteristic comprises a first color.

1 5. The keyboard of claim 4, wherein the second visually distinguishing
2 characteristic comprises a second color, wherein the second color is different
3 from the first color.

1 6. The keyboard of claim 2, wherein the first visually distinguishing
2 characteristic comprises a first color, the second visually distinguishing
3 characteristic comprises a second color different from the first color, and the
4 third visually distinguishing characteristic comprises a third color different from
5 the first and second colors.

1 7. The keyboard of claim 3, wherein the first visually distinguishing
 2 characteristic comprises a first color, the second visually distinguishing
 3 characteristic comprises a second color different from the first color, the third
 4 visually distinguishing characteristic comprises a third color different from the
 5 first and second colors, and the fourth visually distinguishing characteristic
 6 comprises a fourth color different from the first, second and third colors.

1 8. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein each key in the first plurality of keys
 2 includes an icon representing a radiological display function.

1 9. The keyboard of claim 8, wherein the radiological display functions are
 2 associated with predetermined body regions.

1 10. The keyboard of claim 9, wherein the predetermined body regions are
 2 selected from the group consisting of one or more of the head, neck, lung, liver,
 3 knee, abdomen, bone, spine, mediastium, pelvis and whole body.

1 11. The keyboard of claim 8, wherein the radiological display functions include
 2 window and level presets for display of a radiographic image.

1 12. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the first plurality of keys further
 2 comprise a text label indicative of the display function associated with the key.

1 13. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein each of the first plurality of keys is
2 adjacent to at least one other of the first plurality of keys.

1 14. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the image navigation functions are
2 selected from the group consisting of one or more of first image, last image, next
3 image, previous image, next series, previous series, first series and last series.

1 15. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein at least one of the indications for the
2 second plurality of keys comprise a text label.

1 16. The keyboard of claim 15, wherein at least one of the indications for the
2 second plurality of keys further comprise an icon.

1 17. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein each of the second plurality of keys is
2 adjacent to at least one other of the second plurality of keys.

1 18. The keyboard of claim 2, wherein the image manipulation functions are
2 selected from the group consisting of one or more of retrieve patient
3 information, measurement tools, synchronization of images, image filters and
4 presets, cross correlation, 3D reconstruction.

1 19. The keyboard of claim 18, wherein at least one of the indications for the
2 third plurality of keys comprise an icon.

1 20. The keyboard of claim 19, wherein at least one of the indications for the
2 third plurality of keys further comprise a text label.

1 21. The keyboard of claim 2, wherein each of the third plurality of keys is
2 adjacent to at least one other of the third plurality of keys.

1 22. The keyboard of claim 3, wherein each of the third plurality of keys is
2 adjacent to at least one other of the third plurality of keys.

1 23. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the medical software application
2 program comprises a radiographic software application program.